

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Senate Executive Committee
Minutes
Monday, March 2, 2015

Present: Chair Roy Campbell, Vice Chair Kim Gruber, Nicholas Burbules, John Hart, Matthew Hill, Calvin Lear, Melissa Madsen, William Maher, Mary Mallory, Gay Miller, David O'Brien, Michael Sandretto, Kevin Seymour, Joyce Tolliver

Absent: Abbas Aminmansour, Prasanta Kalita

Guests: Chancellor Phyllis Wise, Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Ilesanmi Adesida, Associate Chancellor Reginald Alston, Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs and Academic Policies, Director of Strategic Communications Chris Harris, Equal Opportunity and Inclusion Chair Harry Hilton, Hiring Policies and Procedures Review Committee Chair Eric Johnson, Campus Faculty Association Representative Richard Laugesen, Professor of Slavic Languages and Literatures Harriet Murav, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Renee Romano, Professor of History Mark Steinberg

Media: Daily Illini – Megan Jones, Inside Illinois – Mike Henthal, News-Gazette – Julie Wurth

A regular meeting of the Senate Executive Committee (SEC) was called to order at 3:14 pm on Monday, March 2, 2015 in 232 English Building, with Chair Campbell presiding.

1. Introductions

2. Approval of Minutes

The minutes from January 26, 2015 were approved as written.

Minutes from February 2, 2015 were approved as amended.

3. Chair's Remarks

Chair Campbell requested the formation of a subcommittee to conduct the in-depth review of Vice Chancellor for Institutional Advancement Dan Peterson. Sandretto, Gruber, and Hill will comprise the in-depth review subcommittee.

Vice Chancellor for Research Peter Schiffer have finalized a statement on the Classified Research Policy. The policy statement will be presented to the Senate for discussion.

Chair Campbell informed the SEC that over 500 academic professionals (APs) on the Chicago campus were reclassified as civil service employees.

Chair Campbell reported that Anita Levy from the AAUP (American Association of University Professors) requested a meeting with the authors of the letter that was written in response to the Senate Committee on Academic Freedom and Tenure (AFT) Report. Campbell, Burbules, Gruber, Tolliver, and Matthew Wheeler, as authors of the response letter, met with AAUP. A subcommittee of the AAUP expressed the view that Salaita was an employee. Campbell noted that he and the other authors discussed with the AAUP representative establishing procedures to prevent situations like the Salaita case in the future.

4. Chancellor's Remarks

Wise traveled to Washington DC to accept the Draper Prize on behalf of Professor Nick Holonyak, Jr. for his work in pioneering LED light technology. Two of Holonyak's former students were also awarded the Prize. The Draper Prize is one of the world's preeminent awards for engineering achievement. While in Washington DC, Wise also met with the President of the National Science Academy Ralph Cicerone and Representative Davis.

Wise expressed thanks to the SEC for the unanimous support of the proposed College of Medicine and also the support of the full Senate.

Anita Levy from the AAUP requested a meeting with Wise along with University Counsel Scott Rice. Wise also met with the Senate Committee on Academic Freedom and Tenure (AFT), the Campus Faculty Association (CFA), and also with LAS (Liberal Arts and Sciences) Dean Barbara Wilson regarding the Salaita case.

Wise noted the appointments of Smart and Cepeda to the Board of Trustees. McMillian was reappointed and elected chairman.

Chancellor Wise and Provost Adesida have begun preparing for Governor Rauner's proposed budget cuts. The proposed cuts have not been finalized. The campus should prepare for tough decision making surrounding the proposed budget cuts. A suggestion was made to consult with the Senate Committee on the Budget and if programmatic changes are planned, the Senate Committee on Educational Policy (EPC).

5. Old Business

5.1. Hiring Policies and Procedures Review Committee Final Report

Hiring Policies and Procedures Review Committee Chair Johnson referred to the committee findings that the University's formal hiring policies be aligned with the current hiring practices.

Recommendations one and two of the Hiring Report would require changes to the *Statutes*. Any senator or Senate committee can propose changes to the *Statutes*. The proposed changes must be presented to the full Senate by the Senate Committee on University Statutes and Senate Procedures (USSP). If the proposed changes are approved by the full Senate, the proposed changes are then transmitted to the University Senates Conference (USC) for dissemination to the other campus Senates. Once all three Senates have transmitted recommendations to the USC, the USC advises the President of the proposed changes. The President, at his discretion, takes the proposed changes to the Board of Trustees (BOT).

Adesida noted that the third recommendation, "The campus should review its procedures for off-cycle tenure cases to ensure that those processes continue to operate both rigorously and expeditiously." was the recommendation that the Office of the Provost was working to address.

There is no method for the BOT to make hiring decisions outside of regular BOT meetings. Some SEC members thought hiring decisions should be made more frequently by the BOT. Concerns were expressed that the current proposed budget cuts may make potential employees hesitant to accept employment offers if the appointment is not approved quickly.

A suggestion was made to specifically state that the USSP would be charged with suggesting language changes to the *Statutes* if a resolution was put forward to the Senate in support of the three recommendations listed in the report. Some SEC members felt that first two of the three recommendations in the report were not actionable items by the campus.

5.2. Open Access to Research Articles

No updates.

6. GUP Review of the Hiring Committee Report

The Senate Committee on General University Policy (GUP) Chair Burbules suggested the GUP Review of the Hiring Committee Report be distributed as part of the March 9 Senate packet. SEC members agreed with the suggestion.

7. SUCSS Merit Board Update

Madsen reported that the State Universities Civil Service System (SUCSS) Merit board plan to hold a public hearing with a public comment session. The hearing is to resolve any issues between the SUCSS Merit Board and the University. There is a 5 minute limit on public comments. Chair Campbell felt the SEC should attend to represent the University and the faculty.

8. Proposed Budget Cuts

Committee members proposed holding a separate meeting to discuss the proposed budget cuts in order to devote a significant amount of time to discussion. Hill noted that the Illinois Student Senate (ISS) has constituted a task force on the budget and plan to organize a town hall meeting on the budget. The SEC concurred with the idea of holding a town hall meeting. Hill and Senate Committee on the Budget Chair Sandretto will coordinate efforts.

9. Background Checks

A motion was made to refer follow-up with the policy on background checks to the Senate Committee on General University Policy. The motion was seconded and approved.

10. Assessment of the *ad hoc* Licensing Advisory Committee

Hart moved to have the Senate Committee on Committees make a recommendation on continuation of the *ad hoc* Licensing Advisory Committee to the SEC. The motion was seconded and approved.

11. Setting of the Senate Agenda

The March 9, 2015 Senate agenda was approved as amended.

12. New Business

None.

13. Announcements/Verbal Reports for Information

None.

14. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:12pm.

Jenny Roether
Clerk of the Senate